

Environmental considerations in planning include (1) identifying critical environmental factors; (2) developing alternatives based on environmental factors; (3) evaluating alternatives relative to travel service and environmental factors; and (4) developing a recommended thoroughfare plan that best meets environmental, travel service and other public goals. Even before evaluating alternatives certain environmental data is gathered. For instance, wetlands inventory, historic landmarks, economic development, etc. are gathered. Early research into environmental factors is general. However, recommendations given in a thoroughfare plan will more likely remain intact if environmental factors are researched.

Table 4 - Environmental Factors

Physical	Social & Cultural	Economic
Air Quality, Water Quality, Wetlands, Soils & Geology, Wildlife & Vegetation	Housing & Neighborhoods, Educational Facilities, Churches, Historic Properties Recreational Facilities, Public Health & Safety, Aesthetics	Businesses, Economic Development, Public Utilities, Transportation Costs, Capital Cost, Operation & Maintenance Costs

Water Quality

Water Quality is a prime asset and every effort should be made during highway construction to adhere to recommended guidelines to prevent contamination. Guidelines for maintaining water quality include: (1) control of soil erosion and siltation; (2) control of waste disposal areas during construction; (3) allowing entrance of live and impounded waters only within construction limits; (4) no deposition of any construction materials or pollution agents in traversed waters; (5) proper drainage of all borrow pits and ditches; and (6) inclusion of adequate drainage control plans on facilities in construction. These guidelines are set in NCDOT's "Best Management Practices for Protection of Surface Waters".

Waste sites is also a concern to water quality. Waste sites are waste from leaking underground tanks and sewage disposal. There are different categories of waste sites. A description of the three main categories are as follows: 1) Superfund Sites are critical. It is major hazardous waste from mostly leaking underground tanks. 2) Groundwater Incidents are also mostly leaking underground tanks. However they are not as critical as Superfund sites. 3) National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems, NPDES, are sewage discharge out falls from some type of industry. The Whiteville/Brunswick Urban Area has eleven waste sites, Superfund and NPDES sites. The Superfund sites are Georgia Pacific, four sites; Lackey Industries Warehouse; and USS AgriChemical Farm Service Center. The NPDES sites are located at the Georgia Pacific Corp./Whiteville Timber facility; National Spinning Company, two sites; City of Whiteville/White Marsh Waste Water Treatment Plant; and the International Branded Apparel.